




DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1970

WITH THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND THE ENGINEER & SURVEYOR ATTACHED.

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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1970.

The Rural District of Depwade covers 79,742 acres, and had an estimated mid-year population of 19,060, an increase of 450 persons over the previous year.

Taking the population as a whole, I am happy to be able to report to you once again that no calamity of any serious magnitude has occurred for the year under review. Indeed, the figures presented for your information on the following pages are for the main part almost identical to those for the previous few years.

Taking the gradual increase in population into account there is no worsening of the situation of the public's health as far as the limitations of statistical analysis can show us. Careful study will show an improvement very occasionally as, for example, in the number of cases of measles notified over the past 2 years compared with previous years. I think there is some justification in believing this is due to the new measles vaccine. At the same time, one should recognise that the notification of infectious disease is notoriously haphazard. Particularly is this the case for persons suffering from any form of bowel infection giving rise to diarrhoea. Many of these are mild and do not come to the notice of general practitioners. Most often again the causative culprit of the symptoms is in doubt and they are not notified. This makes the epidemiology of these diseases a very inexact science on many occasions. However, there can be little doubt that the standard of hygiene of food handling in many establishments leaves much to be desired. Apparently very few kitchen staff at present engaged in food preparation for public consumption are trained to think in terms of bacterial cleanliness, which is so essential for sound hygiene methods. Perhaps the recently introduced courses in our Technical Colleges on catering and Hotel management will eventually produce some improvement.

New figures supplied by the County Medical Officer have been introduced for your information following the availability of a vaccine against German Measles. Let us hope that immunisation will result in the disease being prevented in women in the early months of pregnancy, when the mild virus has such catastrophic effects on the developing infant.

One very disturbing feature in the immunisation figures is the very low percentage of babies who are being presented by their parents for smallpox vaccination. Although I understand the figure is even lower for some parts of the country, the percentage being vaccinated overall in Area 5 must be considered to have reached a dangerously low level. We should solicit everyone's co-operation to use any means in their power to persuade parents to have their children immunised against this serious and very often fatal disease. With the ever increasing movement of people to and from this country involving all other parts of the world the passage of infectious disease must be a constant danger. Whereas we have considerable protection from epidemics of cholera and typhoid by virtue of our excellent sanitation and water supplies, our only protection against smallpox - an air-borne disease - is the overall vaccination state of our population. The middle aged and elderly are probably almost universally immune due to compulsory vaccination in infancy or in war service. This is largely maintaining a protective barrier to younger generations, but as this barrier of immunity fades away and is replaced by a population only 30% or 40% of whom are immune, the dangers of serious outbreaks of smallpox must become ever more imminent. Trying to persuade people of the value of insurance, even though it doesn't affect their pockets, can be most frustrating on occasions.

In the context of the above remarks on protection against typhoid and cholera outbreaks, although some of the sewage works at times become overloaded and the effluents do not strictly conform to the standard laid down by the river authorities, nevertheless your officers have done excellent work in maintaining them at the peak of their efficiency - very often a difficult and thankless task. I am speaking of the Area as a whole, as none of us can live in isolation where waste disposal and water supplies are concerned. Undoubtedly as the population grows we shall require more extensive and unified planning to finance the provision of the ever increasing facilities which are required.

The absence of catastrophies in the sphere of Public Health should not lull us into a sense of false security. Widespread outbreaks of disease are not only caused by germs. Very often the difficulty of reducing the suffering caused by such outbreaks is to find a yardstick to measure their magnitude. Since by the nature of things we all have to die of something, the figures relating to the causes of death are only relevant in the context of the age at the time of death. Thus we are well aware that the deaths which occur by accidents in the house and on the roads very often involve young people, and therefore are rightly treated with the utmost seriousness and every method possible is utilised to publicise the important causative factors. Some Councils have formed Health Education sub-committees to help propagate such information to their own people. Others have felt that such committees serve no useful function and indeed it must be confessed that their usefulness depends very largely on the enthusiasm and imagination of the individual members and co-opted members concerned.

Perhaps a more important factor than the numbers who die prematurely are the numbers who survive but suffer permanent disability. Since these invariably are many times in excess of fatalities but being less dramatic and not officially notifiable, they receive scant consideration by the public at large. I am thinking particularly of the number of middle aged people - predominantly men - who suffer from permanent disablement from heart disease or strokes. The "Cause of Deaths" from the Registrar General lists them as Ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease respectively and these together are the greatest causes of death. Both are due to degeneration of the walls of blood vessels. If those affected were all old people they would cause no great concern, but three important factors make them extremely noteworthy:

1. They are the principal cause of death in middle aged men.
2. Those who die prematurely are only a small proportion of those who suffer a terrifying experience from the same cause, many of whom are permanently disabled.
3. There is an ever-increasing volume of evidence to show that many cases, if not completely preventable, could be delayed until a much later age.

If all this is true - and I believe it to be so - why, we may ask ourselves, are we not doing something about it? The simple answer is that a lot is being done. All propaganda media possible - Press, Radio, Television, are constantly at work on this problem. I don't believe that anyone in this country has not heard that to be overweight is dangerous to health, that to take regular exercise is beneficial, that smoking cigarettes is harmful, that fattening food is best avoided, but vegetable fat (particularly polyunsaturated) is less harmful than animal fats. The problem is that the same propaganda media alternate this advice with even more forceful propaganda of how delightful most of the wrong things are! Jolly, rotund men in the thirties and forties chuckle comfortably when confronted with the dangers of being overweight, smoking, etc., and murmur bravely about having to die of something, secretly never believing for one moment that it could happen to them.

We must face the fact that to help those who would possibly suffer from disease of their heart or blood vessels prematurely we would have to alter the whole way of life of people from their third decade onwards to have any significant effect. However, I think it is important that we should continue to churn out our information and concentrate on individual rather than epidemiological success. Here again, Health Education sub-committees can do work of real value.

More exact scientific knowledge for healthy living in later years should probably start at school age, but it seems to me that this is still a very neglected topic in our children's education - at least in a manner designed to be of lasting benefit.

The increased scope and improved grants of the 1969 Housing Act has enabled many homes to be brought up to a higher standard than many owners could previously afford. There is no single environmental factor of greater importance to the public's health, both for mind and body, than good and adequate housing. Whilst it is disappointing that more people who could afford to do so have not taken immediate advantage of the improved benefits under the Act, those that have done so have been treated with utmost encouragement and sympathy by the members of this Council. As witness to this is the ever increasing flow of successful applications. This has greatly increased the work load of your officers, which they have undertaken on top of their other duties in the true spirit of the Act.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to express my deep appreciation to your Health Inspector and his staff for their never-failing co-operation and ready help, and you and the members of your Committee for your kind encouragement and sympathy at all times.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R.D. Harland

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Norwich,
NOR 19S.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT - 1970

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,742
Estimated Resident Population	19,060
Rateable Value	£494,217
Sum produced by a Penny Rate	£1,900

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	147	129	276
Illegitimate	7	7	14
Totals	154	136	290

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population = 15.2

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births = 10.2

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	154	136	290
Still	1	2	3

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total - 6.9 (per 1,000 live births)
 Legitimate - 7.2 (per 1,000 legitimate births)
 Illegitimate - 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births) = 3.4

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births) = 3.4

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 13.7

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 7 Females - 7 Total = 14 (5% of total live births)

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 0.0

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
152	119	271

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population) - 14.2

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Prematurity	2	-	2

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	2	-	2
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	-	-	-
15 " " 25	-	-	-
25 " " 35	1	1	2
35 " " 45	5	1	6
45 " " 55	7	2	9
55 " " 65	26	12	38
65 " " 75	51	34	85
75 and over	60	69	129
Totals	152	119	271

Table 11. CAUSE OF DEATHS (Registrar General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm - oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm - intestine	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - prostate	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm - larynx	1	-	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	7	11	18
Diabetes mellitus	2	1	3
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease	2	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	44	32	76
Other forms of heart disease	16	10	26
Cerebrovascular disease	18	24	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	3	8
Influenza	4	1	5
Pneumonia	10	12	22
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	1	6
Asthma	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	-	1	1
Totals	152	119	271

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST 4 YEARS

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)	(272)	(299)	(276)	(290)
Depwade R.D.	15.0	16.3	14.8	15.2
Area 5	16.3	16.1	14.9	15.1
England & Wales	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	7.0	7.0	10.2
Area 5	9.4	9.6	12.7	12.3
England & Wales	14.8	14.0	13.0	13.0
Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)	(262)	(295)	(254)	(271)
Depwade R.D.	14.5	16.1	13.6	14.2
Area 5	12.5	13.3	11.8	11.7
England & Wales	11.2	11.9	13.6	11.7
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	(3)	(3)	(6)	(2)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	10.0	21.7	6.9
Area 5	14.6	13.0	14.6	11.6
England & Wales	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D.
 2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Number of deaths	36	32	55	46	47	44	49
Percentage of total deaths	15	12	22	18	16	17	18

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1970	152	29	6	119	20	1
1969	117	22	9	137	22	1
1968	123	22	10	172	25	1
1967	122	19	5	140	27	4
1966	143	34	9	107	19	3
Totals	657	126	39	675	113	10

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(According to Age Groups - Depwade R.D.)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	-	-	2
Measles	3	20	20	2	-	45
Whooping Cough	1	3	3	-	-	7
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	3	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	4	24	25	2	6	61

Table 16. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS
- Depwade R.D.

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Scarlet Fever	8	11	15	3	2
Measles	156	102	365	23	45
Whooping Cough	14	6	4	1	7
Infective Jaundice	3	-	-	5	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	4	-	-	4	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	2	12	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	2	3	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	2	1	1
Tetanus	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	189	121	391	52	61

Information given by the County Medical Officer in respect of Vaccination and Immunisation carried out in Area 5 (comprising Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s) during the year is shown in Table 17 to 23.

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX
Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the year resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table:

	Depwade R.D.	Area 5
Number of live births registered	290	1205
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	113	494
Percentage vaccinated	39	41

Table 18. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
839	221	101	1161	269	1464	1733

Table 19. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
809	204	122	1135	134	2332	2466

Table 20. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total	Under 5
821	179	15	1015	300

Table 21. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total
840	229	214	1283	274	2452	2726

Table 22. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS - Area 5

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations last year is recorded. (Owing to the introduction of German Measles vaccine, B.C.G. vaccination at most schools was postponed until 1971).

Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
374	17	345

Table 23. GERMAN MEASLES (RUBELLA) VACCINATION - Area 5

This was introduced towards the end of the year but owing to a restricted supply of vaccine, was offered only to 13 year old girls.

Eligible	Accepted	Vaccinated
473	421 (89%)	400

Table 24. ENGLISH MEASLES VACCINATION - Area 5

	Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-14	Total
1968	11	369	656	1,036
1969	81	234	587	902
1970	5	742	670	1,417

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1970.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1970. Having taken over from Mr. Weeks on the 1st April, naturally, I have included his figures for the first three months of 1970. This report follows the same lines as my predecessor's, and complies with the requirements of Circular 1/71 from the Department of Health & Social Security.

INTRODUCTION.

(a) General.

Looking back over only eight months with Depwade, I am unable to compare last year with any other. I have endeavoured to carry on where Mr. Weeks left off and maintain his high ideals and progress. I am also very conscious of reaping where I have not sown, and several of the schemes now maturing were instigated prior to my appointment.

I must also acknowledge most gratefully the support and encouragement received from everyone with whom I have come into contact in Depwade, both councillor and officer. This has helped me to settle down very quickly.

The major change in duties to be recorded is the transfer of the duties of Building Surveyor to the Engineer & Surveyor from the 1st April. So far as the Public Health Department is concerned, this has not brought any major difficulty, since the two departments work well together at all levels. Any shortcomings are due to the geographical separation between the two offices which does not help communication. It is also not pleasant to have to refer members of the public, who have inadvertently come to the wrong office, to a building some three miles away.

(b) Staff.

Mr. Frank Weeks retired on the 10th April, after 23 years service. He worked many hours of unpaid overtime each week to cope with the ever-increasing flow of work and maintain his efficient service to the public. This was far beyond the normal flexibility of hours expected by public servants of his status, and it is only proper that this debt should be acknowledged. He took many genuine good wishes into his "active retirement".

Mr. Derek Coldham, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, left on the 31st October, on his appointment as Chief Public Health Inspector to Bridgwater Rural District Council in Somerset. His service with Depwade commenced on the 11th January 1960, and he was a well respected and hard-working colleague.

The stock of local knowledge taken from the department by these two officers will take a long while to replace.

Mr. Brace was given a well-earned promotion to Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector from the 1st November and his post as Additional Inspector has been filled by Mr. M. W. Whitehead, who is joining us from Marshland Rural District Council on the 1st January 1971.

Mr. C. Bardwell, clerk, resigned as from 31st March, and as his duties principally involved building and planning control, the establishment of the public health department was reduced accordingly. This leaves Miss D. L. Coleman as the only clerical staff, and although she copes extremely well, she is very often under unreasonable pressure. Discussion with the Clerk of the Council is taking place with a view to some assistance, possibly as a joint appointment with other departments.

A new appointment was made in the department when the establishment was increased to provide for a Meat Inspector, and Mr. P. Moulton commenced his duties on the 1st August. He is based at Messrs. Lambert's Slaughterhouse at Earsham, which is some twelve miles from the office. The meat inspection here was previously carried out by a public health inspector, who, of course, spent a considerable amount of time travelling from other parishes, and was not always able to be present during slaughtering. During seasonal slack times at the abattoir, the meat inspector visits poultry processing premises and regularly inspects some 7,000 birds a week. Mr. Moulton is now inspecting food shops, particularly, butchers, which lie on his route between the poultry premises and the abattoir.

(c) New Legislation.

It is unusual to have to record that no new Acts of Parliament affecting the work of the department were passed during the year. Circulars and Statutory Instruments were issued from the various government departments on the following subjects :-

Department of Employment & Productivity - Offices, Shops & Railway Premises.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970. These come into force on the 1st March, 1971, and amend and consolidate the 1960 regulations.

(d) General Working of the Department.

The following table gives statistics of the types of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year. The object, as in previous years, has been to secure observance by the persons concerned of the various statutes and regulations, by education and persuasion rather than by incurring penalties provided. The desirability of raising standards above those of the minimum actually laid down has been stressed, and on the whole, good results have been achieved. The inspectors are always careful to point out instances where they are recommending a higher standard rather than insisting upon the regulation minimum. This is important where actual standards are laid down because we are not legislators, and this point is frequently missed by members of the public when making complaints. That a thing "ought to be done" is constructive comment from a lay person, but an inspector charged with statutory powers must not require a standard beyond that which he could, if necessary, enforce in the courts. As long as it is made clear that he is making recommendations in accordance with good practice in the particular trade, the inspector will often achieve a more satisfying relationship with the shopkeeper, builder or restaurateur, as the case may be.

Enforcement by persuasion is of necessity time-consuming, and total numbers of visits by themselves prove little. The quality of the relationship between the Council and the public is more important than mere figures.

				<u>Number of Visits or inspections</u>		<u>Percentage of total</u>	
				<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
* Slaughterhouses for meat inspection and other purposes	...	...	...	738	(593)	10.37	(6.3)
Housing (excluding Grants)	...	...	...	945	(1515)	13.28	(16.1)
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	971		13.65	
Public Health Matters - nuisances, water supplies, infectious diseases etc.	...	...	...	986	(1106)	13.86	(11.7)
Public Cleansing - (including public conveniences)	...	...	...	776	(620)	10.91	(6.6)
Food Premises	...	...	...	570	(380)	8.01	(4.0)
Other Matters (places of employment, rodent control, petroleum storage, and miscellaneous visits).	...	...	...	912	(1074)	12.83	(11.4)
				5898	(5288)		
Building Regulation and Planning Control	...	...	...	1216	(4130)	17.09	(43.9)
				7114	(9418)		

Note:- * Includes 127 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection by veterinary surgeons in private practice.

PART 1 - H O U S I N G.

(a) General.

On April 1st, 1969, the total number of separate dwellings in the Valuation List was 7,301, an increase of 180 from the previous year. The Registrar General's mid-year population estimate was 19,060. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

(b) Slum Clearance - Action under the Housing Act 1957 on Unfit Dwellings.

70 dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as unfit and beyond economic reconditioning; following their inspection by the appointed Sub-Committee, action taken thereon was as follows:-

(i)	Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(ii)	Undertakings accepted not to relet vacant dwellings, or to repair within agreed time	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(iii)	Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(iv)	Demolished without formal action having to be taken	...	...					-
(v)	Deferred for consideration at a later stage of the slum clearance programme	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
								<hr/> 70 <hr/>

During the year five demolition orders and one closing order were revoked and one statutory undertaking cancelled, the dwellings concerned having been reconditioned to a satisfactory standard.

The following table shows the situation at the end of the year regarding unfit dwellings subject to statutory orders still standing:-

	<u>Demolition Orders</u>	<u>Closing Orders</u>	<u>Undertakings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number occupied	81 (69)	16 (11)	10 (8)	107 (88)
Number vacant	87 (92)	30 (28)	81 (80)	198 (200)
	<hr/> 168 (161)	<hr/> 46 (39)	<hr/> 91 (88)	<hr/> 305 (288)

1969 figures in brackets.

As inspections proceed of houses listed as 'unfit' it is very evident that the worst houses have either been repaired or demolished, and only the 'border-line' houses remain. Where houses are below the Council's standard of fitness, then improvement grant can often be paid to take the property out of the slum clearance class, and it is pleasing to see that this is so often the case.

The end of the slum clearance programme is in sight, and now the department is again fully staffed (or should it be re-staffed), the rate of inspections and representations is to be increased so that the owners and occupiers both present and prospective, and not least the inspectors will know where they stand. One cannot commend a policy of deferment at this stage of the programme. This merely leaves the mythical sword hanging over the heads of the owners, and leads to the possibility of re-occupation of unfit houses by prospective council tenants.

Where houses are 'safe' to live in as opposed to 'fit' to live in, there should be no need to compel elderly tenants to seek other accommodation. At the same time, the wider interests of the public are not served by procrastination in the making of Orders, provided they are not enforced upon older people. The view has been expressed in Committee, and it is one I fully endorse that there should be a third type of Order under the Housing Acts, which would merely prevent re-occupation when the present tenants leave the property, at which time Demolition Orders could become operative.

In 19 cases it was found necessary to make written informal requests to owners to carry out housing repairs following receipt of complaints from the tenant and none of these necessitated further formal action.

(c) Improvement Grants.

The number of grants approved in 1970 was 142 (50 Discretionary and 92 Standard), as opposed to 100 in 1969. The bulk of the work in the department appears to be devoted to some stage of the improvement grant procedure. Considerable time is given to advice to owners, which is not altogether reflected in the figures since one may visit the same property several times with different prospective purchasers.

This is one of the most satisfying aspects of our work at the moment, and many houses which would otherwise have been demolished, have been preserved as part of the Norfolk scene. For once, the statutory guidance is not too detailed, and a very wide discretion is allowed to the Council and exercised extremely generously and fairly by the Buildings and Plans Committee, with regard to the works which rank for grant.

Minor initial problems in administration occurred with the transfer of the Building Surveyor duties to the Engineer, but these were promptly overcome with the excellent co-operation received both from that department, and the Clerk's department, both of which are also involved in the improvement grants. To avoid confusing the applicant, whose grant is forfeit if work is commenced before the grant is approved, the 'consent notice' under the Building Regulations is sent by the Engineer to the public health department with the plans, and after Committee approval has been given to the grant, the Clerk, on completion of the necessary legal formalities, sends this form with the statutory approval notice to the applicant. In this way the owner receives all the consent forms in the same envelope.

(i) Discretionary Grants. (given to properties with a minimum life of 30 years after repair and improvement.)

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>Total to Date.</u>
Applications received.	58	40	783
Applications approved.	50	38	743
Cost of work directly ranking for grant.	£37,620.	£18,254.	£238,319.
Grants paid during year.	35	28	
Amount paid.	£17,237.	£9,523. *	
Average grants approved.	£752.	£480.	

* From 25th August, 1969, the maximum grant was increased from £400 to £1,000.

(ii) Standard Grants. (given for the provision of the basic amenities to properties with a minimum life of 15 years after repair and improvement.)

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>Total to Date.</u>
Applications received.	84	63	905
Applications approved (including applications made in previous years)	92	62	822
Amount of Grants approved.	£22,371.	£13,961. *	
Amount of Grant certified for payment.	£22,455.	£9,459.	£102,233.
Number of dwellings.	78	52	
Average per dwelling.	£287.	£182.	

* From 25th August, 1969, the basic maximum grant was increased from £155 to £200.

Amenities Provided for first time.

<u>Baths.</u>	<u>Wash-Basins.</u>	<u>Sinks.</u>	<u>Hot Water Systems.</u>	<u>W.C's.</u>	<u>Septic Tanks.</u>	<u>Bathrooms.</u>	<u>Internal Water Supply.</u>
73	74	7	73	71	42	20	9

(d) Overcrowding.

No new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year and the only case of statutory overcrowding was abated when the occupiers moved out of the rural district. Three cases where overcrowding occurs on the unofficial 'bedroom standard' remain on the register.

(e) Cleanliness of Dwellings.

The dwellings within Depwade continue to be maintained to a good standard, and in only three cases was it found necessary to make special visits. Provided that the occupiers are not verminous and are not causing a nuisance to other people, dirty houses are no longer a problem. Tactful visits are made with a view to obtaining assistance from the other social services if necessary.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

(f) Moveable Dwellings - Caravans.

At present 70 licences are in force covering 72 single residential caravans. All of the sites were visited during the year and it was found that licence conditions are being observed. Owing to the high fire risk in caravans, occupiers are being encouraged to adopt a higher standard of extinguishers than the Licence requires, on the basis that a small fire can be rapidly doused before it takes hold.

The two holiday caravan sites at Wortwell were found to be maintained and conducted to a very good standard.

PART II - WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Supplies. (see also Appendix).

115 samples of mains water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. 58 of them were from points in supply and were all found to be satisfactory. 51 were from new main extensions on housing sites and all but 15 of these gave satisfactory results. The remaining 15 showed minor pollution believed to have originated whilst the pipes were stored prior to laying, but subsequent sterilisation and flushing enabled satisfactory results to be obtained before the services were put into use.

6 samples were also taken of raw water from the bores at Rushall, and were found to be satisfactory.

On the 1st April, South Norfolk Water Board assumed responsibility for the water undertaking, and they have kindly agreed to supply the details required by the Department of Health and Social Security to be in this report. I must formally state that the water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during the year.

Towards the end of the year agreement was reached with the Water Board that they would take the samples from the new main extensions. The public health department continues to make random checks of the mains water, especially from restaurant kitchens and similar points. The aim of taking at least one sample from each parish during the year is being maintained.

(b) Private Supplies.

16 bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year from private wells, and of these, only three gave satisfactory results. In one case it was found that three cottages occupied by elderly people still depended for their entire supply of water on a well with a bucket and windlass. As the cottages are of demolition standard, and the rents are nominal, the owner at the request of the department, has taken steps to provide a stand-pipe in a convenient situation.

All the users of unsatisfactory supplies are warned to boil water before it is used for human consumption.

PART III - SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES & PREMISES.

(a) Meat Inspection.

The same three slaughterhouses were licensed throughout the year. One is used by a village butcher for the personal slaughter and dressing of his own meat, and this presented no trouble at all since all of the animals slaughtered were purchased by the butcher personally for his own sale and were of a high standard. The centralisation of slaughtering for a number of reasons, leaves very few of this type of slaughterhouse in the county, and their disappearance is viewed with mixed feelings since those that were good were very good, and the meat produced of excellent quality. Even so meat inspection is very uneconomic at small establishments, and the impossibility of proper supervision allowed the less scrupulous butchers to take chances which were often inadvisable.

The two larger slaughterhouses are situated at the two extreme boundaries of the rural district, at Carleton Rode, and at Earsham. The latter has developed over the years into a modern abattoir of a good standard, and it became evident that the inadequacy of the visits for meat inspection was not in the best interests either of the trade or of the public. During the Spring, the slaughterhouse proprietor gave written notice of his intentions to expand his throughput to meet the demand from his trade customers, and since meat inspection was occupying a large proportion of a public health inspector's time to the detriment of his other duties, an authorised meat inspector was appointed and based at this slaughterhouse. The immediate effect of his almost continuous presence was rapidly evident in the better observation of the hygiene regulations by the slaughtermen, and his ability to give an on-the-spot decision when sick animals were brought in for slaughter. It has also been possible for the first time to make ante-mortem inspections of all animals so that obviously diseased animals may be segregated and dressed apart from the remainder.

Due to the vagaries of the trade and fluctuation in markets, the expected increase in kill has not yet developed, and this has enabled the meat inspector to carry out inspections of at least one poultry processing establishment each day. On one occasion he arrived in time to prevent a consignment of suspect birds from fowl pest infected premises being sent for manufacture into chicken paste. One would expect that before they reached their final destination they would have been rejected either by the manufacturer, or by an inspector, if they went through a market. No formal action was necessary as the birds were certified unfit and surrendered for destruction.

The slaughterhouse at Carleton Rode is in older and less suitable buildings, and is frankly, unsatisfactory. The proprietor has had some difficulties in obtaining suitable staff, his marketing arrangements have not gone smoothly, and he has experienced personal difficulties and bereavement, so that he has not been able to give the premises the attention he knows they deserve. Advice and encouragement are being given to secure a proper standard.

After an increase of 20% in 1969, total killing figures show an increase of 223 cattle and 269 sheep over last year, but 351 fewer calves and 1,520 fewer pigs were slaughtered. Even so 5,500 more pigs were slaughtered than in 1968.

Income from meat inspection charges at £1,649. 10. 9d., however, was only £34.6.6d. less than last year.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the assistance in meat inspection given by the two private firms of veterinary surgeons, who have continued to visit the slaughterhouse on Saturday afternoons, and help us throughout temporary periods of staff shortage.

Each slaughterhouse was inspected regularly throughout the year and in addition a veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food paid regular visits. Apart from Carleton Rode, only minor infringements of the various regulations were found and quickly remedied.

During the year Mr. Brace and I both attended courses in London on developments in food inspection, and a one day course on a Sunday at Wymondham College on meat inspection. The latter course organised by the Association of Public Health Inspectors in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is the first of this type in the country, and it is hoped it will be a regular annual feature to keep us up-to-date.

The following table shows the number of the various types of animals slaughtered and inspected, together with the incidence of disease and abnormalities :-

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Total
Number killed	1552	135	722	1454	36680	1	40,544
Number inspected (percentage)	1552 100%	135 100%	722 100%	1454 100%	36680 100%	1 100%	40,544 100%
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	15	-	125	-	143
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	118	20	25	48	3138	-	3,349
Percentage of number inspected affected	7.6	17.0	6.0	3.0	9.0	-	9.0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	236	-	236
Percentage of number inspected affected	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	0.6
<u>Cysticerci</u>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note:- No horses were slaughtered in the District during the year.

Details of Whole Carcases Condemned.

2 cows ...	septic peritonitis.	11 pigs ...	septicaemia.
1 cow ...	oedematous.	13 pigs ...	septic peritonitis.
5 calves ...	immature.	8 pigs ...	septic arthritis.
3 calves ...	moribund.	52 pigs ...	multiple abscesses.
4 calves ...	umbilical pyaemia.	4 pigs ...	septic pleurisy.
1 calf ...	fevered.	3 pigs ...	moribund.
1 boar ...	multiple abscesses.	4 pigs ...	fevered.
9 sows ...	pyaemia.	1 pig ...	extensive bruising.
1 sow ...	extensive bruising.	1 pig ...	uraemia.
1 sow ...	moribund.	3 pigs ...	septic pneumonia.
1 sow ...	uraemia.	3 pigs ...	dead in lairs.
1 sow ...	dead in lairs.	2 pigs ...	oedematous.
4 pigs ...	pathological emaciation.	3 pigs ...	acute septic swine erysipelas.
1 pig ...	emphysema.		

The total estimated weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption was 14 tons 17 cwt., almost exactly the same as last year (14 tons 13 cwt.) This unfit meat was removed by contractors to the slaughterhouse proprietors in accordance with the stringent regulations now in force.

Slaughter of Animals Act - Slaughtermen's Licences.

23 licences were renewed in January, and increase of one over the 22 issued last year. No cases of cruelty were reported, and no complaints made against the slaughtermen apart from their occasional unwillingness to wear overall caps, as required by the hygiene regulations.

(b) Inspection of Other Foods.

During the year three complaints made to the department about unsound food and referred to Norfolk County Council were prosecuted by them. These involved dirt and oil in a loaf, (£50 fine plus costs); a mouldy steak and kidney pie (£25 fine plus costs); and foreign bodies in the form of pieces of a rubber glove embedded in pre-packed butter (£50 fine plus costs)

There is no legal reason why Depwade should not itself initiate prosecutions for this type of offence, as many rural councils, in fact, do. I understand the reason for referring to the County is the failure of the magistrates to award sufficient costs to pay the expenses of the solicitors appearing for the council. Against this must be set the time wasted in bringing a County inspector from Norwich to go over the same ground covered by the rural inspector. The cost to the ratepayer, who will foot the bill, is probably the same, but the effect of referring cases to a higher authority (?) is likely to be the gradual appropriation of the duties of the smaller council by the larger.

One other complaint, the alleged purchase of stale chocolate bars by a young mother was a border-line case, and after discussion with the vice-chairman of the Public Health Committee it was decided that the best interests of the public would be served by the issue of a formal caution to the shop-keeper, who is on the point of retirement.

The public health inspectors are now equipped with pocket thermometers and these are used to check storage temperatures of frozen, chilled and cooked foods, as these are vital to the physical and bacteriological quality of many foods.

As a result of considerable research by colleagues in the Association of Public Health Inspectors, the vexed question of date stamping of perishable foodstuffs in retail shops has been examined. Many manufacturers use private codes on their products, and the more important of these, made available to the Association in confidence, are kept in the office, so that checks can be made on the efficiency of stock rotation in the shops in the area. This is done as much to protect the shopkeeper from unscrupulous deliverymen as to protect the public from inefficient sales staff. Shopkeepers are always advised to apply their own coding system so that they know how long any perishable foodstuff has been on their shelves. More emphasis is to be given to this facet of our duties in the coming year, but it must be pointed out that rarely is 'stale' food harmful to eat. The efficiency of stock rotation is a fairly accurate guide to the inspector of the general standard of the supervision of the shop in question.

Only two cases of failure of refrigerated cabinets were brought to our notice and the surrender of some 37 lb. of frozen food accepted as out-of-condition. 1368 lb. of frozen game bird were condemned following a refrigerator breaking down. A further 124 lb. of miscellaneous foodstuffs was condemned and surrendered informally for destruction including part of the stock of a general store, whose owner was injured in a road traffic accident and admitted to hospital, and whose premises were invaded by mice in his enforced absence.

(c) Food Premises.

The following table gives the number of the various types of food handling premises (other than slaughterhouses and dairies), in use at the end of the year.

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
General food shops (inc. 2 stalls)	88	87
Butchers shops	13	14
Fish shops (inc. fried fish & chip shops)	7	4
Fish stalls	2	3
* Restaurants, cafes, canteens, etc.....	24	13
Bakeries.....	4	4
Public Houses.....	49	52
Poultry processing premises.....	5	6
Mineral Water Factory.....	1	1
Wholesale meat store.....	1	1

* The 1970 figure includes kitchens at private schools and private nursing homes.

570 routine inspections were made, which is an increase of 200 over 1969. This increase in visits was made possible by the transfer of building control work, and would have been higher, but for the two months the department was an inspector short.

18 informal letters were sent in relation to 32 breaches of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and in six cases these related to food delivery vehicles. All were complied with without need for formal action. The inspectors adopt a realistic attitude towards the many food businesses being carried on in older property in the district, where major works would be required to comply with the letter of the regulations. Even so, were not so many food-stuffs prepacked by the manufacturers, thus greatly reducing any risk of contamination, some shops would find that a tougher line would have to be taken by the department with regard to the structure of these premises. The growth of the supermarket, and the widespread increase in vehicle ownership means that the smaller shopkeeper is no longer the principal supplier of the family groceries, even in the villages, and it is evident that some are having a difficult time financially. With the greater public awareness of food hygiene, and the gradual retirement of the older shopkeeper, who could not always cope with the changing trends, the general standard in the district gives no cause for concern.

With the change in duties and establishment it is pleasing to report that not only were 184 visits paid to poultry processing premises, as opposed to 53 last year, but the inspectors were able to spend much more time on each occasion. Poultry inspection is not carried on by the department in the same detail as is meat inspection, but the various plants employ members of their own staff on this work, actually on the production line, so that each bird is individually examined. Observation by the department's qualified inspectors over considerable periods of time show that this system works well; birds rejected by the 'spotters' are further examined for incidence of disease, and checks are made on the dressed bird. No cases have been reported of 'doubtful' birds getting through.

Approximately 4,315,000 birds, including game are processed at the various plants. The table overleaf gives an analysis of the weekly throughput.

POULTRY SLAUGHTERING AND INSPECTION.

	Average Weekly Throughput	Rejection Rate
Golden Produce Chicken Limited, Harleston.	62,000 All Broilers 7 - 9 weeks old.	0.5% - 1%
Dove & Company, Wortwell.	2,000 Broilers 7 - 10 weeks old. 200 Capons 14 - 16 weeks old.	.01%
J. Mackay, Dickieburgh.	500 mainly Capons.	Very low. All poultry hand-picked when live.
L. Whurr, Harleston.	6,000 mainly Battery Hens.	2 to 8%.
C. Frost, Game Factory, Brockdish.	360,000 Wood Pigeons.	1%
	20,000 Pheasants.	10%
	40,000 Partridges.	10%
	30,000 Hares.	1%
	60,000 Rabbits.	1%
	8 - 10,000 Mallard Ducks.	10%
	5 Deer.	-
A. Harvey, Bunwell.	5,000 birds.	-

The programme of submission of swabs taken from the chicken factory in Harleston for laboratory bacteriological testing continued, and was extended to the game factory at Brockdish, both with excellent results.

	<u>No. of Occasions.</u>	<u>No. of Swabs.</u>	<u>No. of birds, etc. covered.</u>
Golden Produce Chicken Limited, Harleston.	4	300 200	5,500. 3,000 (offal only).
C. Frost, Game Factory, Brockdish.	3	270	1,060

In addition two satisfactory checks on the cooling tank water at Harleston were made.

The standard of the poultry processing premises varies, and one plant was the subject of informal action which secured a major improvement. One other, where no dressing takes place, still has room for improvement. The Game Factory has put in plans for a new reception building, which will improve matters to some extent.

(d) Retail Distribution of Milk.

The registration of an additional retail distributor brings the total to 21, plus three producer retailers. There are also five milk stores in the area. All are kept under routine observation and are satisfactory; minor infringements continue to be the failure to display the name and addresses on their vehicles.

(e) Ice-Cream.

Two more shops have been registered for the sale of ice-cream and including one manufacturer the total is now 70. Eight samples of ice-cream submitted for bacteriological examination were reported as Grade I (excellent).

(f) Imported Food.

Seven visits have been made during the year in connection with the new regulations which permit sealed containers of foodstuffs to pass through the ports uninspected. The container system ensures rapid handling of articles which would otherwise need to be dealt with in smaller units, and the special lorries are a familiar sight on our Norfolk roads. It does, however, throw an unprecedented strain on to some local authorities, who have the duties of port health authorities thrust upon them when they are not staffed to deal with them.

The few containers delivered into Depwade were all for the Mill at Burston, and although the food inside was fit for human consumption and imported as such, its ultimate destination was animal feed.

PART IV - PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Developments over the past year enable a much more cheerful picture of this service to be presented.

Shortly after Mr. Weeks had retired the results of his negotiations for a spare refuse vehicle materialised in the form of an elderly Dennis Paxit II, bought by the Council for £350. This was at a time when we were under pressure by an insurance company to have repairs carried out to BFW 477B, following an accident. The petrol engine of this Karrier was also giving trouble and resulted in the vehicle being off the road for over three months. Consequently, within six months the Paxit had saved its purchase cost and was showing a profit of more than a hundred pounds over the hire charges for an essential replacement vehicle. The Paxit is the first compression vehicle the Council has owned, and proved its worth by holding the entire day's collection from Harleston, which normally necessitates three visits by the Karrier to the tip.

If kept as a spare vehicle, the Paxit was warranted for three years, but as a result of its continual use while the other vehicles were repaired it has needed additional expenditure. This vehicle is also brought into use to cope with holiday collections, and on the odd occasions the cesspool emptier does not have a day's work the tanker crew willingly take the Paxit out to help the refuse gangs.

The larger Karrier vehicles are now six and seven years old, but continue to give good service, especially now that planned maintenance is possible with a spare vehicle on the fleet. Each vehicle is given a manufacturers service in local garages on a mileage basis, and is put through an M.O.T. Safety Check. The smaller Karrier also gives good service, but due to its small payload is uneconomic.

During the year five different refuse vehicles were demonstrated in the district, and all but one proved to be suitable vehicles for our needs. The Sub-Committee appointed to purchase additional vehicles to implement the weekly collection has now made their choice, and it is expected that two new vehicles will arrive towards the end of 1971.

The urbanisation, both actual and planned, of several of the larger villages makes a weekly collection imperative, and with the increased cost of labour, large refuse vehicles are the obvious choice to cut down time spent tipping and compacting in the vehicle. When the larger vehicles arrive it is proposed to reduce the crews in the Dual Tips and use them on the easier parts of the rounds where houses are more scattered. This will reduce the unit costs of collection in these areas, and should extend vehicle life.

During the year all of the refuse vehicles were equipped with hand-washing units for personal hygiene, rear loading steps to save all of the loaders using the cab for short runs, and reflective strips to improve the vehicles visibility in poor light. On the suggestion of a Member, the crews were issued with fluorescent clothing in the interests of road safety.

The weekly collection planned for the 1st April, 1971, was postponed until the Norfolk County Council Work Study Team have carried out an investigation to recommend a bonus scheme for the crews. This was a wise move now that overtime is running at some 60 hours a week, and the men are being encouraged to greater productivity and also being faced with further properties to collect from. Refuse is increasing in bulk, especially as modern houses do not have open fires to burn odds and ends nor large gardens for bonfires and compost heaps.

Depwade was, fortunately, not effected by the strike of manual workers in the Autumn.

A trial of the refuse sack system of refuse collection was made in Harleston and was so well received by the householders that a full scheme is to be brought into the whole area from the 1st April, 1971. It is hoped to have this system working well by the time the Work Study Team arrive so that they can base their recommendations on it. Householders are being encouraged to put full sacks out for collection to reduce walking time by the loaders, with a view to operating smaller crews and thus saving expense. If sufficient occupiers do co-operate, it is hoped to absorb much of the cost of the sacks and give a much cleaner form of collection for only a little extra on the rates. Certainly, the trial in Harleston was re-assuring and the number of sacks put out on collection day, quite voluntarily, boded well for the scheme.

The refuse collectors again gave excellent service throughout the year, and the refuse sack scheme was recommended to the Committee with them in mind. The cleaner system should make their task much less obnoxious and unhealthy. I was, particularly, impressed with their helpfulness and willingness to change duties as required during temporary staff shortages due to illnesses and leave.

Of the two men injured in the traffic accident in December 1968, one, O. Brighton, has been prematurely superannuated on medical grounds. C. Reynolds continues to work, although obviously suffering some discomfort from his injuries. He lost a total of 41 days work through sickness, mainly in the first two months of the year, and it would appear that he has made a good recovery.

W. Knights lost 85 days as a result of a stomach operation for ulcers from which he has now recovered.

Including these figures, the total number of days lost by all the workmen was 235½ (1969 - 422).

Two temporary men were taken on to the permanent strength during the year, W. Knights to replace O. Brighton in March, and G. Townsend in November, the latter in anticipation of the weekly collection.

The opening of the Refuse Pulverising Plant at Brome by Hartismere Rural District Council in February, solved the difficult problem of winter access to the refuse tips. Almost half of Depwade's refuse collection had to be committed to this scheme in order to make it an economic proposition, and this means that much uneconomic mileage is travelled to the plant during the working day with a loss of useful man hours, as the present refuse vehicles cannot hold a day's collection. Disposal charges are also made to our Council.

Balanced against this is the damage to expensive vehicles on tips in poor weather, and the cost of covering materials for those tips. In fact only one of the present tips, that at Shelton is accessible in the wet. The lease of this tip expires in July 1971, and negotiations to obtain a two year extension are in progress.

The lease of the Needham tip also expires in July, but the offer of the former sand and gravel working nearby has been made and accepted. This new site is further from the houses in the village than the present tip, but a certain amount of preparation is necessary before tipping can commence. In view of the expected ten year life, a serviceable road is to be constructed to maintain access in all weathers, and the possibility of excavating covering material on site is being explored so that controlled tipping can take place at minimum cost.

The tip situation in the northern area is more difficult, but a large sandpit at Forncett St. Peter has been offered to the Council to form the principal disposal point for this part of the rural district. Unfortunately, the tip whilst being remote from houses, is also set well back from the highway, and a serviceable road is likely to cost at least £2,000. Again, a ten year life is anticipated, and covering material should be available on site.

Two other tips at Forncett have a shorter life and difficult access except in dry weather. A quantity of railway sleepers was purchased with a view to ensuring all weather use, but this met with only limited success due to a steep access to the pit, which is in a hillside and which is impassable in rain. The short life remaining to this tip precludes an improvement of this approach. The sleepers are being used to form a roadway over the tipped refuse to consolidate it and to provide a puncture-free path to the tip face. The other tip nearby is full, but not re-instated. The farmer, who owns the land has offered to wait a year or so while the refuse settles in the hope that a final layer to finished ground level may be added.

The aim of the controlled tipping on all the sites is to restore the land to agriculture, so that there will be no indication of the present use in future years. This is not helped by the plant available on the tips, a 1965 farm tractor with loading shovel, blade and trailer, which struggles valiantly to cope with all of the tips, and loses a great deal of time to punctured tyres. A bulldozer was hired and employed on the current Forncett tip and a few days work increased its life fivefold. Whilst plant of this size is not an economic proposition for the Council to purchase, it is to be hoped that a more useful vehicle will replace our present tractor on the tip in a year or two. The change to compression collection vehicles will increase tip life by discharging packed refuse, and the continual running of these vehicles with their 13 ton gross weight over the tip will help consolidation, but settlement difficulties in the first few months are being guarded against.

The Working Party set up on a county basis to consider future trends in refuse disposal has still not produced a viable scheme, and the authorities around Norwich have problems to face which we are spared for the moment.

(b) Emptying of Earth Closet Pails.

This work is continuing as in previous years in certain parishes where a special rate is paid, but steps are being taken to secure the conversion of sanitary accommodation to water flushing, to phase the service out.

The Council gave approval to the payment of a grant for closet conversions in 20 (14 - 1969) cases during the year, and in 10 (25 - 1969) cases work was completed. In many cases the standard and discretionary grants paid for house improvement involved the modernisation of sanitary accommodation, so that up to now enforcement action for conversion has not been necessary. In fact the tanker is only engaged on the service one day each week instead of the two needed last year.

However, the position is arising when this service should be discontinued, but in Harleston older people are occupying houses which are the subject of Orders under the Housing Acts and not suitable for modernisation. The tenants have no wish to leave the houses they have occupied for many years, and in some cases they have no garden for the disposal of night soil, so the problem cannot be resolved easily. On the other hand is it fair on our workmen? If there was ever a case of "washing the disciples feet", this is it, and I must record my thanks, particularly, to the tanker crew for the responsible way in which they carry out their duties.

The tanker contents continue to be composted on an isolated site at Thorpe Abbotts without any cause for complaint.

(c) Emptying of Septic Tanks.

The same tanker is still used for the emptying of septic tanks as for night soil, but it is getting towards the end of its life. It is, however, too good to scrap, but, at the same time not worth major expenditure. Towards the end of the year, the Dennis Bros. service engineer was called in to report, and the urgent work noted was put in hand, but the rest is being kept under review. The driver is a reliable and conscientious man, and the fact that he is a steady driver has been a factor in postponing the replacement of the vehicle for a year, but it has been thought advisable to arrange with the Engineer to have the use of his tanker if necessary in emergency.

Following the dry Summer the work load is in fact less than last year, as the table shows.

Type of Premises.	No. of loads collected.	
	1970.	1969.
Council sewage works and septic tanks.....	170	150
Private septic tanks.....	719	885
Tanks at schools, school canteens, etc.....	62	37
	<u>951</u>	<u>1,072</u>

The principal problem arising was the disposal of the tanker contents at certain seasons of the year. This has been discharged on to farmland with the consent of the owners approached by the tanker driver, following the gradual disappearance of the former airfield sewage works previously used. During wet weather it has not always been physically possible to get on to the land, which is in any case only available before ploughing.

Initially, this problem was tackled in consultation with the Engineer and the various Council sewage works were made available, but the effect of the maturer sludge on the relatively small plants led to an imbalance of the bacteriological processes, and this scheme was abandoned. Slightly more satisfactory was the use of sludge drying beds, but it is quite apparent that members of the public are intolerant of natural odours from council sewage disposal plants, but accept far worse smells from 'industrial' farmers without complaint.

The Council accepted the principle of renting suitable disposal sites, and these have been established at Roydon, Fersfield, Aslacton, Wortwell and Needham. Negotiations are taking place for a site at Hardwick so that the tanker will never be far from a discharge point in all weathers. A similar arrangement to the composting of pail closet wastes is being developed on suitable sites as far as possible using waste straw.

As a long term solution, the Engineer is incorporating a treatment plant into certain future sewage disposal works.

PART V - R O D E N T C O N T R O L .

The table shows the work carried out during the year in comparision with 1969.

	Council Tips, S/Works, etc.		Private Dwellings.		Agricultural Premises.		Other Premises.		TOTAL.	
	1970.	1969.	1970.	1969.	1970.	1969.	1970.	1969.	1970.	1969.
Notifications Received.										
Rats	2	2	193	240	19	32	29	41	243	315
Mice	3	1	29	22	1	-	8	3	41	26
Routine Survey Visits.	18	13	945	1106	53	36	53	46	1069	1201
Treatments.										
(a) Rats .. Major	87	22	132	60	15	7	14	7	248	96
Minor	53	82	562	581	14	21	35	18	664	702
(b) Mice .. Major	-	-	4	6	3	-	-	-	7	6
Minor	4	-	52	31	-	1	6	3	62	35
Dead bodies picked up.										
Rats	622	416	575	567	101	171	57	60	1355	1214
Mice	2	-	56	47	-	7	26	4	84	58

Days lost to sickness by Rat Catcher 18 (32½ - 1969).

Other Pests Treated.

Fleas	4	Moles	13 (6)	Bees	1 (1)
Flies	16 (2)	Ants	3	Wasps	56 (22)
Bats	2 (3)	Rabbits	3	May Bug	1
				Water Rats.	2

In addition to the work carried out by the rat-catcher, 42 visits for rodent control were made by the inspectors during the year.

All of the refuse tips were sprayed as necessary during the year, and the sewerage systems treated, with three 'takes' only in Harleston on one occasion, which were not repeated on subsequent baiting.

In common with other local authorities it was noted that mice are becoming resistant to Warfarin. They are, however, succumbing to Alpha-chloralose, and fortunately the Warfarin resistance has not been noted in rats. Trials are also taking place using 'pre-packed bait', which seem to appeal to the rodents, who are more hygiene conscious. The advantage is that the bait remains fresher since it is not so open to deterioration, and the rat-catcher believes there is the psychological element present in that the rodent is more conditioned to 'stealing' food from a pack than from taking his nutriment from the open.

I would like to express my appreciation not only for the way in which Mr. Bartram carries out his duties so efficiently, but also his willingness to help out with other work in times of temporary staff shortage.

In one instance, due to bad feeling between neighbours in dispute, it was necessary to make formal entrance on to land to investigate a complaint of a rat infestation. The statutory notices having been served, entry was not opposed, and it was found that treatment had taken place so that further action was unnecessary.

PART VI - P L A C E S O F E M P L O Y M E N T.

(a) Factories Act 1961.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of					
		Inspections		Written Notices		Occupiers prosecuted	
	<u>1970.</u> <u>1969.</u>	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 are enforced by Local Authorities. (No power used).	8 3	13	10	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Power used).	82 86 *	61	62	2	3	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises).	3 3 **	4	3 *	-	-	-	-
Totals	93 92	78	75	2	3	-	-

NOTES:- * This figure includes 14 butcher's shops, where power operated sausage or mincing machines are in use, which are visited regularly under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

 ** These are the slaughterhouses, also visited regularly for meat inspection throughout the year.

Record of Inspections of Factories.

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
Factories with Mechanical Power.	61	62
Factories without Mechanical Power.	13	10
Building sites re sanitary accommodation.	114	143
Outworkers premises.	41	16

Written notices related to minor deficiencies in sanitary accommodation which were promptly rectified by the firms concerned.

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

<u>Type of Premises.</u>	<u>Total Number Registered.</u>		<u>Total Number of Employees.</u>	
	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
Offices.....	19	11	103	84
Retail Shops.....	59	53	183	165
Wholesale departments/warehouses.....	2	2	11	12
Catering establishments/canteens.....	7	6	32	28
Fuel storage depots.....	3	3	7	7
	<u>90</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>296</u>
			Males	122
			Females	214
				106
				190

Total number of inspections.....	137	140
Number of informal notices.....	5	6
Number of deficiencies.....	15	-
Prosecutions.....	Nil	Nil
Number of accidents notified.....	Nil	Nil

In a rural area such as Depwade the number of employees per registered premises is small and the relationship with the employer more personal, so that the general working conditions are satisfactory. Premises where employees are close relatives of the employer are exempt from the Act so that the statistics in the table do not reflect a true picture of the actual number of persons employed within the area.

Contraventions noted were of a minor nature.

(c) Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.

Inspections throughout the year showed that the standard of sanitary accommodation provided for agricultural workers in the fields is reasonable. Extra accommodation was made available for the large number of workers at the various harvests and this was in all cases found to be satisfactory.

PART VII - O T H E R M A T T E R S.

(a) Public Health Act - Nuisances, etc.

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
Number of inspections.....	216	195
Re-inspections.....	224	231
Informal letters.....	18	36
Statutory Notices.....	-	1
Informal letters re defective drainage..	20	8

Most complaints were dealt with informally on site.

In four cases informal letters were sent in respect of dangerous buildings before this duty was transferred to the Engineer as part of the Building Surveyor's function.

(b) Clean Air Act, 1956.

Sixteen visits were made under the above Act as opposed to nine last year. Informal letters were sent as a result of two separate large bonfires causing serious nuisance to householders, one involving the clearance of bushes from a new building site. The other, more serious, was the nuisance caused to the majority of the built-up area in a parish by the incineration of fowl pest infected chicken carcasses. A letter was also sent to a factory whose chimney was emitting dark smoke through burning unsuitable fuel.

Prior approval to the installation of new boilers was also given to a firm and a chimney height agreed.

Smoke control work does not, of course, figure largely in the day-to-day work in a truly rural district such as Depwade, but at the same time the inspectors need to bring their technical knowledge up to date as the opportunity arises. It is hoped that a course approved by the Royal Society of Health will be held in Norwich next year, and that the public health department staff will be nominated to attend.

(c) Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Five visits were made following three complaints, under the above Act, none of which warranted statutory action. The annoyance caused by noise, especially in a rural area is very subjective as the complaints show, one being as a result of the steam museum at Bressingham, another the barking of dogs on a nearby farm, and the other from a diesel engine operating on a night shift at a toolmakers at Hempnall. The department does not have a noisemeter since these are extremely expensive when compared to the number of times they would be used, but a suitable instrument may be hired from a neighbouring Rural District Council.

None of the complaints received warranted the use of a meter since the noises complained of were distinctive, and would have been submerged in the background noise level existing. The interesting illustration of the subjectiveness of the complaints made was in the local publicity given to the noise from Bressingham, which picked up nationally was expected to lead to an increase in visitors to the museum.

(d) Civic Amenities Act, 1967. - Litter Act 1958.

Three instances arose of cars being abandoned within the Council's area, but these were all removed by the depositors on the promise of statutory action. Several scrap dealers within the area are prepared to take in old cars and are often prepared to pay a small fee, so there is absolutely no need for this form of vandalism to occur within Depwade. It is perhaps significant that the persons responsible were from outside the rural district.

Another two instances arose of house refuse being dumped in roadside ditches and the alleged offender has been traced by the police, who are preparing prosecutions under the Litter Act.

On the A.140 and the A.1066 the County Council have provided litter bins, for use by motorists and lorry drivers for picnic remains, but these again on occasions have been used as refuse dumps by uncaring people, in some cases making clearance by the refuse collectors very difficult.

The Council's refuse tips are available, by arrangement, for the deposit of bulky refuse without charge, and any large items which cannot be taken on the regular refuse collections can be picked up on a special call at a small charge to cover our costs.

(e) Miscellaneous Licences.

Licences issued during the year were as follows:-

	<u>1970.</u>	<u>1969.</u>
Petroleum Storage.....	98	104
Animal Boarding Establishments.....	4	4
Game Dealers.....	11	11

Petroleum.

41 routine inspections of premises licensed for petroleum storage resulted in the service of nine informal letters to remedy minor defects. In addition all of the retail premises were circulated with a request to serve small quantities of petrol to customers who brought authorised containers only. Exemption from licensing for the storage of petroleum spirit is granted to the householder who holds no more than four gallons in separate two gallon, properly marked, and securely stoppered metal vessels. These conditions are laid down because of the obvious fire risks, not only to the person keeping the petrol, but also to innocent neighbours.

During the year, the first application was received for the installation of a self-service petrol pump in the district. This was approved subject to conditions, but has not yet been installed.

The Council became a Member of the Institute of Petroleum Acts Administration to ensure that we are kept informed of technical and legal developments in this somewhat specialised field.

Scrap Metal Dealers.

Three more dealers were registered during the year bringing the total to eleven. The inspectors are co-operating with the police authority to ensure that the records kept by scrap metal dealers are in an approved form.

To conclude my first Annual Report may I express my appreciation of the support received from the public health department staff, and look forward with them to a busy year ahead and a further improvement in the environmental health of our area.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



February, 1971.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Appendix.

MAINS WATER SUPPLIES.

The following information has been supplied by South Norfolk Water Board:-

The water supply in the area of Depwade Rural District Council has been satisfactory in quality, but the following parishes are affected by low pressure:- Ashwellthorpe, Tacolneston, Forncett, Tharston, Bunwell, Wacton, Bressingham, Shelfanger, Roydon and Winfarthing.

No contamination of the water supplies has been reported or found.

7280 houses are supplied from public water mains direct to the properties, and a further two by standpipes.

There is no fluoride content in the water, nor evidence of any plumbo-solvent action. Consumers are, however, persuaded to replace existing lead plumbing during alterations, as the mains water has been lime-softened.

Typical Chemical Analyses.

	<u>Raw Water.</u>	<u>Treated Water.</u>
pH	6.95	8.85
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.04	
Nitrate	Nil	Nil
Nitrite	Nil	Nil
Chlorion as Chlorine	40	
Total Hardness	425	105
Temporary Hardness (Carbonate)	355	35
Permanent Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	70	70
Free Carbon Dioxide	40	Nil
Iron as Fe	7.1	0.02
Colonies per ml. on agar at 37° C., 2 days.	4	Nil
Presumptive Coliform Organisms per 100 ml.	Nil	Nil
<u>Appearance:</u>	opalescent, flocculent iron deposit.	clear.
<u>Deposit:</u>	iron compounds.	Nil.
<u>Colour:</u>	yellow.	Nil.
<u>Taste:</u>	satisfactory.	satisfactory
<u>Odour:</u>	Nil	Nil.

Remarks:- The raw water contains a heavy trace of iron but the softening process has removed it completely. The residual hardness is satisfactory. The bacteriological condition of the raw water is excellent.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1970 ... my first report for a full year as your Engineer and Surveyor.

In last year's report I had to refer to remarkable changes in weather and the consequential effect on building and civil engineering work, but, English weather being unpredictable, the past year has been quite different. The winter was comparatively mild with very few extremes and the summer dry, warm and prolonged with the result that no Contractor could really plead inclement weather as an excuse to gain an extension of time on a Contract. The months of November and December were, if anything, wetter than usual and this may have an effect on work commenced early in 1971.

Two major changes took place in the work undertaken in the Department. Firstly, at the beginning of the year you decided that, on the retirement of Mr. Weeks, Planning and Building Control should be transferred from the Public Health Department to my Department and, secondly, at the end of the year a decision was taken for more of the capital works schemes to be designed and prepared within the Department rather than by Consultants.

The technical services of planning and building control, housing (both private and Council) and sewerage and sewage disposal are now so closely related that there are clearly advantages in having them within the control of one Department and I am certain that in the long run the Council will not regret having made these decisions.

Members may recall that during late 1969 and early 1970 the Depot was burgled on a number of occasions and stores to the value of over £1,000 were stolen. As a result of this a new stores building was erected and completed in June and the bulk of the stores are now secure within this building. At the time of writing this report the Police have not been successful in prosecuting for any of the offences.

My staff have had to contend with many changes during 1970 - those resulting from the new duties undertaken and metrication to mention but two - and I must place on record my appreciation of their continued excellent support and co-operation. I would also extend my appreciation to my fellow Chief Officers and their staffs.

HOUSING

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

(1) House Improvements:

I think the Council can take pride in the fact that at the end of the year the programme of improving pre-war dwellings was complete with the exception of those at Bungay Road, Brockdish where main drainage is not available. In November I had to report that electrical facilities in many of the post-war houses were sub-standard and as the next improvement priority you decided to embark on a programme of bringing 394 dwellings up to modern electrical standards over a period of 4 years.

(2) New Dwellings:

By the end of the year the 1969 housing programme comprising 50 two-bedroomed aged persons bungalows on 8 sites:- Aslacton (4), Bressingham (6), Gissing (4), Great Moulton (3), Long Stratton (8), Pulham Market (6), Pulham St. Mary (6) and Wortwell (13) was well on the way to completion with the exception of the Pulham Market and Wortwell Contracts which, due to various difficulties, started rather later in the year. The tenants seem to be delighted with these new bungalows although, as with all things, improvements are possible, and one or two helpful suggestions made will be incorporated in future designs. It has been very noticeable in this last year that nearly every Contract has extended well beyond the Contract period and, although in one or two cases there has been a genuine reason for this, in my opinion the real reasons are:- the inability of the Contractors to obtain the necessary labour and materials on time, the sub-contractor system of building which is widely used to avoid the effects of S.E.T. but leads to less effective control and, because small Contractors take on more work than they can reasonably cope with.

The Council's first grouped homes for the elderly was completed and opened in February and apart from one or two minor teething troubles, particularly with the central heating, seems to have been a highly successful project. Although I am not personally involved in its day to day running a tremendous community spirit seems to have been generated in a comparatively short time which must in no little way be due to the work, help and enthusiasm of the warden, Mrs. Stocks and her husband.

1970 also saw the completion of the six bungalows at Francis Road, Long Stratton, forming part of the 1968 programme.

The 1970 Housing Programme of 44 bungalows at:- Ashwellthorpe (6), Bunwell (6), Burston (4), Carleton Rode (4), Hempnall (4), Long Stratton (10), Scole (6) and Tibenham (4) brought with it all the problems of metrication as all submissions to the Ministry from January had to be in that form. This meant completely new designs for all types of dwellings. Whatever some people may say to the contrary there are going to be many problems associated with the change. One cannot adapt one's mind overnight to thinking of, for instance, bricks in terms of 215 mm x 102.5 mm x 66 mm instead of 9" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" or doors as 1980 mm x 760 mm and not 6'6" x 2'6".

Although metrication has obviously had a delaying effect on the 1970 programme by December all sites had been submitted to the Department of the Environment for yardstick approval, 5 had been cleared and tender documents were in course of preparation for all sites.

All new dwellings have been designed to Parker Morris standard and, in accordance with the Council decision, will include full central heating by means of oil fired warm air units. At the time of writing this report the crisis in the middle east oil negotiations will undoubtedly lead to an early substantial increase in the price of fuel oil but, even so, I am more than ever certain that the decision to "go oil" was a wise one as recently the cost of solid fuel, gas and electricity seem to be the subject of quite staggering rises.

In October the Council decided that its 1971 housing programme would consist of a second grouped homes at Long Stratton with 20 units of accommodation plus warden's accommodation and communal facilities, etc., and 40 general purpose dwellings divided equally between Long Stratton and Harleston. I hope that this will act in some ways as a respite enabling us to catch up a little on our Housing Programme. The 1969 and 1970 programmes spread the allocation of dwellings rather thinly over the District with the result that 16 separate contracts have had to be prepared with an average of less than 6 in each and from the Department's point of view there is almost as much work involved in designing, preparing and supervising a contract for 6 as there is for one of 20 or more.

(B) MAINTENANCE

At the end of the year the Council had a total of 1,650 dwellings to maintain, an increase of 36 over the previous year and again the service which we give our tenants was not subjected to undue criticism. The direct labour staff was increased by the equivalent of half a man but from Appendix 2 it will be seen that the number of jobbing repairs carried out was 10% up. To keep pace with this trend the Council must be faced fairly shortly with a decision to increase the number of tradesmen unless there are substantial benefits from the impending Work Study.

The 1970 external painting programme was not successful, only 272 dwellings being painted out of a programme of 332. Our own staff painted 166 houses which was certainly an improvement on 1969 but the Private Contractor only painted 90, his Contract having to be terminated because weather conditions after mid-November were no longer suitable and also because the standard of workmanship was unsatisfactory. The last two years have been disappointing in so far as work carried out by outside painting contractors is concerned and with this in mind it has been decided to carry out next year's programme by directly employing additional temporary labour. It remains to be seen how successful this will be but it is unlikely that the situation will deteriorate.

WATER SUPPLY

Many Members of the Council will have regrets when they realise that this is the last time this particular heading will appear on the "Engineer's Annual Report". The South Norfolk Water Board finally took effective control of the undertaking last February and the Council was then only left with an interest on financial affairs which I must add has involved the Treasurer and his Department in a considerable amount of work. Depwade can be proud of the undertaking it has handed over and undoubtedly it was one of the better ones for which the Water Board has taken control. By the end of 1969 almost the whole of the District had a piped water supply, the service offered to consumers was of a high order and, furthermore, water was provided at a very reasonable cost.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

When writing the 1969 report I felt that in view of the County's priority programme it would be unlikely if we saw much progress in the ensuing twelve months in our efforts to improve main drainage and sewage disposal facilities in the District. However, this proved to be wrong and much to the Council's and my pleasure a much brighter picture has emerged. (Perhaps the mid-year General Election helped!). It was reported in January that the Brockdish Scheme was finally approved and work is now in progress; an enquiry was held into the Wacton Scheme and, subject to a number of minor problems still to be resolved, this scheme should be approved and work started during 1971; the major extensions at Roydon to serve parts of the area around Louies Lane and Bressingham were approved and tenders were invited; and finally perhaps rather unexpectedly a scheme to provide main drainage in Tottington Lane, Roydon was designed and approved and work has now commenced. Unfortunately it seems that the recent indirectly applied financial squeeze by the Government will delay work on at least the major extensions at Roydon.

After the difficulties that have been experienced in recent years with flooding at Harleston the scheme to relieve the centre of the Town by providing an eastern relief sewer was also approved and work commenced. The approval of a large private housing estate off Paddock Road highlighted the need for a western relief sewer in Harleston and at the end of the year the preparation of this scheme was in an advanced state.

Surface water problems were not, however, confined to Harleston. With the development at Long Stratton the need for providing a comprehensive surface water drainage system to deal not only with the existing village but also with its expansion became apparent. Following my report to the Housing and Sewerage Committee in September it was decided to embark on a scheme to provide not only adequate surface water drainage but also to improve the foul drainage system and extend the Sewage Disposal Works to deal with the projected development and the increased load brought about by the decision to pump sewage from Wacton, Aslacton and Great Moulton for treatment at the main works. The extensions to these Works which were finally completed in January, 1970 should cope until mid-1973 which gives adequate time for the further extensions to be provided.

(B) MAINTENANCE

On the whole our sewage disposal works continued to operate satisfactorily and I think I can fairly say that there were only three plants that could be classified as unsatisfactory - the Oxigest units at Aslacton, Denton and Fersfield and, from my enquiries, it would seem that we are not alone in our troubles with these plants. Of course there is always room for improvement and with this in mind the Council decided in July to appoint a Sewage Works Manager to my staff. Unfortunately we seem to have had little success in filling this appointment up to the present time. This is almost certainly due to the fact that so many Councils have reached the same conclusion at the same time and there are just not enough qualified and experienced men to go round. In other words it is an applicant's market.

The coil filter at the Harleston Works continues to operate very satisfactorily and we do endeavour to make the utmost use of this plant by tankering sludge from other works. The treated sludge is stored on site, does not create a smell nuisance and at the present time we have very little trouble in disposing of it.

All the men employed on sewage disposal continued to give loyal support during the year in spite of the national unrest created by the manual workers' wage claim, and for this we must be very grateful.

TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

Town Planning and Building Control

This new aspect of the Department's work was foreign to most members of the staff when transferred to my Department in April but everyone concerned quickly adapted themselves to it. The upheaval was minimal and very few changes have been necessary which have affected the service given to the general public.

The number of applications dealt with during the year was slightly less than in 1969, 980 as against 1037. Of these 559 required consideration under the Town and Country Planning Acts - 37 fewer than in the previous year. As Mr. Weeks said in his report last year these figures mean very little as one application could refer to a small domestic garage or an estate involving over 100 dwellings. If anything the rate of building in the District is still increasing, 330 dwellings were completed during the year and 319 were under construction.

On account of the availability of cheaper land developers from further south - the Essex area - are expanding their interests into our District and during the last 12 months applications have been submitted or enquiries made for major private development involving a total of well over 500 dwellings at Harleston, Long Stratton, Roydon, Scole and Earsham.

It is clearly essential that before allowing development of this magnitude the Council must be certain that either sewage disposal facilities are adequate or can be provided without difficulty. The projected developments are not likely to create problems at the Harleston Works, at Long Stratton when extended or Scole but extensions could be required at the other villages in the near future. It would appear that the Water Board is also having difficulties in meeting demands in parts of our area and this must be taken into account when considering new large scale development.

O T H E R M A T T E R S

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The scheme for the provision of a car park and lavatories on the land adjacent to Jubilee House, Long Stratton was again not proceeded with but, as a temporary measure, part of the land was surface dressed to provide a reasonable hard surface for the time being. Plans have been approved for the public lavatories so that they can be provided when funds are available.

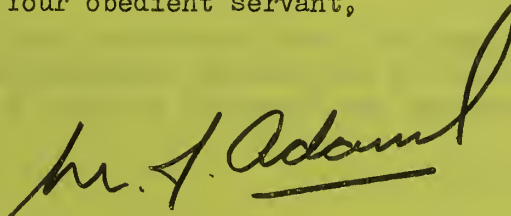
Much needed improvements have been carried out to the Depot at Long Stratton during the past year which included the provision of the new store building and workshops, the conversion of buildings to provide additional office accommodation and the concreting of an access road around most of the circulation area. In addition, a number of minor improvements were also carried out, such as the provision of guttering to buildings and as a result of all these improvements the Depot is a very much more tidy and respectable place.

(B) PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

I have referred to the scale of development taking place in the District under a previous heading but, apart from the planning and building regulations aspect of private development there is also the help that we are expected to give with regard to the provision of foul and surface water drainage, street lighting, etc., and advice was given in respect of 15 private development schemes during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mr. J. Adam', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Engineer & Surveyor

February, 1971

APPENDIX 1

STAFF CHANGES IN 1970

ARRIVALS - OFFICERS:

6. 4. 70.	MR. D.M. CARR	CLERK OF WORKS/BUILDING INSPECTOR
6. 4. 70.	MR. J.B. CLARKE	GENERAL CLERK
13. 7. 70.	MISS B.R. WADE	JUNIOR CLERK

DEPARTURES - OFFICERS:

17. 5. 70.	MRS. D.A. EDWARDS	CLERK/TYPIST
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ARRIVALS - WORKMEN:

27. 4. 70.	MR. V.M. SAVORY	LORRY DRIVER
10. 8. 70.	MR. G. ANDERSON	HANDYMAN

DEPARTURES - WORKMEN:

2. 5. 70.	MR. W. WEAVERS	LORRY DRIVER
8. 5. 70.	MR. G. ANDERSON	HANDYMAN

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY HOUSING REPAIRS SECTION

No. of dwellings under repair at 31st December, 1970	1,650	(1,614)
Complaints received	3,004	(2,718)
Jobbing repairs done	3,011	(2,731)
Electrical complaints received and dealt with	337	(254)
*Dwellings painted externally	166	(150)
Dwellings completely or partially redecorated internally on change of tenancy	8	(15)
Routine Inspections of Council Dwellings	52	(85)
Vehicle Mileages	JNG 378D ...	4,476
.....	SAH 718G ...	6,941
.....	726 DNG ...	7,193
.....	DNG 422C ...	6,120
.....	CCL 833D ...	3,979
.....	TAH 987G ...	8,051
.....	TJF 655H ...	9,772
		<u>46,532</u>
		(53,188)

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1969

*In addition to the 166 dwellings mentioned above, 16 dwellings were painted by Contractors working on Improvements Schemes and 90 dwellings were painted by direct contract, making a total of 272 dwellings painted during the year.

APPENDIX 3

CAPITAL SCHEMES DEALT WITH DURING 1970

1. HOUSING

(A) Improvements:

(i) <u>By this Department:</u>	None
(ii) <u>By Consultants:</u>	
(a) Brockdish, Bungay Road (16)	Awaiting Sewerage
(b) Earsham, Station Road (6) & Kingsway (2)	Work Completed
(c) Gissing, Burston Road (8)	Work Completed
(d) Roydon, Diss Road (9) & Factory Lane (6)	Work Completed
(e) Shelfanger, Druid's Lane (8)	Work Completed
(f) Tasburgh, Church Road (now Grove Lane) (6) Turnpike (2), and Off Turnpike (now Church Road) (8)	Work Completed
(g) Tharston - Norwich Road and The Street Hapton (12)	Work Completed

(B) New Dwellings (All by this Department)

(i) 1968 Programme for 15 Bungalows:

Long Stratton (6) Work Completed

(ii) Grouped Homes for the Elderly at Harleston

20 one-bedroomed and 2 two-bedroomed bungalows Work Completed

(iii) 1969 Bungalow Programme:

Aslacton (4) Work nearing completion

Bressingham (6) Work nearing completion

Gissing (4) Work Completed

Great Moulton (3) Work Completed

Long Stratton (8) Work in Progress

Pulham Market (6) Work in Progress

Pulham St. Mary (6) Work nearing completion

(iv) 1970 Bungalow Programme:

Long Stratton (10) Siteworks about to
commence. Tender
documents in
preparation.

Ashwellthorpe (6) Tender documents
ready.

(iv) 1970 Bungalow Programme (Continued)

Hempnall (4)	Tender documents in preparation
Tibenham (4)	Tender documents in preparation
Burston (4)	Tender documents in preparation
Scole (6)	Tender documents in preparation
Carleton Rode (4)	Tender documents in preparation
Bunwell (6)	Tender documents in preparation

(v) 1971 Bungalow Programme:

Harleston (20)	Scheme being prepared
Long Stratton (20)	Scheme being prepared
Long Stratton Grouped Homes	Scheme being prepared

(C) Site Works for Help to Would-be House Purchasers:

NONE.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(A) By Consultants:

Brockdish - Village Sewerage Scheme	Work in Progress
Wacton & Aslacton - Village Sewerage Scheme	Scheme in preparation
Roydon - Extensions to serve Louies Lane area and parts of Bressingham	Tenders received
Harleston (East) Surface Water Drainage Scheme	Work in Progress
Harleston (West) Surface Water Drainage Scheme	Scheme in preparation

(B) By this Department:

Long Stratton - Village Sewerage Scheme - 3rd Enlargement	Scheme in preparation
Long Stratton - Surface Water Sewers	Scheme in preparation
Roydon - Extensions at Tottington Lane	Work about to commence

3. OTHER MATTERS:

(A) CAPITAL WORKS:

By this Department:

Long Stratton Car Park - Temporary Surface	Work Completed
Depot - New Store, Offices and alterations	Work nearing completion
Fencing to Scole Sewage Disposal Works	Work Completed

(B) Private Development:

Assistance has been given and supervision undertaken in connection with sewers on many private development sites and the following are notable:-

- (i) Harleston - Starston Road - Norfolk Garden Estates.
- (ii) Harleston - Woodlands Estate - Brian Sabberton Ltd.
- (iii) Long Stratton - Stratton Chase - Dunscombe Properties Ltd.
- (iv) Long Stratton - White House Estate - N. Saunders Properties Ltd.
- (v) Harleston - Off Common Lane - Daniel T. Jackson Ltd.
- (vi) Roydon - Brewers Green - K. Bass Ltd.
- (vii) Roydon - Roydon Court - Pope Properties Ltd.
- (viii) Scole - Bungay Road - Trend (J.V) Ltd.
- (ix) Dickleburgh - Rectory Road - Daniel T. Jackson Ltd.
- (x) Tacolneston - Tacolneston Fields - Mrs. F.C. Jackson.
- (xi) Tacolneston/Fornsett - Tornest Development Co.
- (xii) Tacolneston (ex.Ford & Carter) - Daniel T. Jackson Ltd.
- (xiii) Tasburgh - Tas Valley Estate - Tarrid Builders Ltd.
- (xiv) Wortwell - Low Road - T. Gill & Son (Norwich) Ltd.
- (xv) Long Stratton - Stratton Park Estate - Norfolk Garden Estates.

